John Carter Brown
Library
Brown University

KNOWLTON 1964

A

RELATION

Of the

LIFE

OF

CHRISTINA

Queen of Svveden:

WITH

Her { Resignation of the Crown,
Voyage to *Bruxels*, and
Journey to *Rome*.

Whereunto is added,

Her Genius.

Translated out of French, by *I. H.*

LONDON,
Printed by *J. C.* for *Henry Fletcher*, at the three Gilt Cups;
and *Nath. Heathcoate*, at the Acorne, neer the
West-end of *Pauls*. 1656.

RPJCB

To the Reader.

STrange have been the Revolutions produced in our Age; and so frequent, as may beget admiration in the most Grave and Wise. But amongst others, this of Christina of Sweden is transcendent. That great Queen had worthily obtained the repute of being not so great and glorious, as wise and vertuous: the rays of her glory were so resplendent upon her People, at her first appearing, that the loss of her renowned father Gustavus, that bright Star, was little perceived, by reason of the sweet influences cast from the more refulgent brightness of this rising Sun. But a Sunshine-morning proves not always a fair day: nor did this Luminary long continue her lustre, but became obscured and darkned by certain foggie vapours exhaled by her self. To speak plainly, Pigmentelli and others frequenting that Court, insinuated themselves into the Queens favour and familiarity, whereby they got oportunity to instil into her such counsels as were the natural products of

their own base hearts; which she embracing, became quite changed; and her Court, which was formerly a School of Vertue, was now a Nursery of Vice, which having once found an inlet, rushed in like an overflowing Inundation, drowning the plants, and even washing away the seeds of Vertue, that had been sowed and sprung therein. In a word, Vice, that had been rarely seen in that Court, became now a constant guest, and found entertainment both at bed and board.

The ensuing Discourse gives you an ample account of this Princess, both while in her glory, and after her eclipse; being written by one of her Domesticks, who was privie to her most secret practices, both in Sweden, *and also thorow* Germany *to* Hamburgh, *where she gave him and the rest that accompanied her (except some few) the go-by, leaving them to shift for themselves in a strange Country, (for so it was to most of them) without any consideration or provision on her part.*

Never was the World so gull'd in their opinions of any one person, as of this Princess, who whilst she was esteemed the Phœnix of the Age, became insensibly a prodigious monster; and from a Lady of great renown, she is become a Lady Errant, seeking Adventures in strange Lands.

A brief Relation of the Life of *CHRISTINA* Queen of *Sweden.*

ALl Europe (not to speak of the other parts of the earth) has doubtless heard of the Resignation of CHRISTINA Queen of Sweden. The Ignorant, who are but little vers'd in Policie, have look'd on it, as a Prodigie of Vertue, and an action full of Generosity: but the Learned and Politick have taken it, as the highest Folly, which could ere fall into a womans head; and who is best inform'd of the affairs and state of the Kingdom of Swedland, doth publish it with a loud voice, for a famous Bankrupt, she would make to her Creditors. The less judicious have believ'd, that the Swedes being weary of her Government, for the most part disorderly, she hath been (as it were) secretly forc'd, to devest her self willingly of the Kingdom, to prevent with prudence what might befal some other way. But the wisest, who know the light and inconstant humour of that Princess, say boldly, that she hath

done it through levity, and out of a whimsey ; having always been carryed thus, in whatsoever she hath done. I omit purposely many speeches, I have heard upon this subject, in Denmark, Germany, the Low-Countries, and even in Swedland ; because I see no motives strong enough, to make me believe them.

That Princess was cry'd up, the first years of her Reign, amongst all Nations in Europe; and truely with reason : for in those days she might justly be call'd, The most Religious, Just, and Vertuous Princess in the world. She was familiar and beneficial to all, very charitable to the needy, and most officious to any, to whom she might either do, or procure any good. But a monster, France had brought forth 'gainst her custom, being gone to lurk in the Caves, Forests and Rocks, which the Goths left of old, to breathe the air of France and Italy, did so skilfully win her heart, yea possess'd it, that all the time he stay'd there, he handled her at his pleasure, and for his own profit ; but to the grief and discontent of all the world, yea of the chief of the Kingdom, who weary with the impertineneies of a man of nothing, did twice or thrice attempt upon his life. That man being without Religion and Piety, impress'd all his false opinions on the minde of the Queen, whom thus in a short time he did make like himself ; and she was in a moment so strangely chang'd, that she was no more like herself. She did indeed bear still the name of Great CHRISTINA, but she had no more her vertues. She did before, eat for the most part in publike, where they us'd to discourse of some fine matters, wherein all her Court did with admiration partake of the knowledge and subtilty of that Princess's wit ; who by those means was reverenc'd and cherish'd by all men. But this foolish States-man, quite contrary to that commendable

pra-

practice, ſtole her from her Courtiers, to poſſeſs her alone, and entertain her Royal minde, with Jeſts and ridiculous Sports; ſo that her Counſellors, and the great men of the Kingdom, could hardly ſee her, and ſeldom ſpeak to her. By her privacie with that baſe fellow, ſhe began to loſe much of the good opinion, her Subjects had of her; and her aſſiduity with him did ſo eloign the moſt zealous of her Courtiers, that her Court did appear like a Deſert or Solitude, to what it was before.

The imprudence or impudence of that mercenary ſtranger, did not onely affront the chief of the Kingdom, and even thoſe who were moſt in the Queens favour, but did alſo moleſt her domeſticks; injuring them one after another, rather by Fancie then Reaſon. And this he did, to make oſtentation of the power, he had acquir'd upon the minde of CHRISTINA, which he cauſed to act according to the ſtrange motion of his irregular paſſions; and into which he might eaſily inſpire love or hatred, with their effects, in the behalf, or to the prejudice of whom he pleas'd.

That Imprudence and Impudence grew at laſt to that height, that being judg'd intolerable, ſome did reſolve and endeavour to murther him. This will appear ſomwhat violent and bloody, to calm or ſtill humours: but it is fit, one man ſhould die for all: and when all ſuch wicked and abominable perſons ſhould be cut off, the reſt would fare better, and live with more content. This baſe and fearful heart, which hath never done any thing which either were generous, or appear'd as ſuch, ſeeing himſelf purſu'd in good earneſt, was forc'd to think on his retreat, for which he made an advantageous proviſion; carrying out of the Kingdom, whether in Coyn or Plate, to the value of an hundred thouſand Crowns, and more. And it is a ſtrange thing, that ſtout Nation

had not a man, who would purſue this infamous Fugitive, to waſh in his foul blood ſo many crimes, wherewith he had defil'd that Court. Providence would not have it ſo. His abſence did indeed give ſome reſpite to many men, and did ſweeten their bitterneſs: but he had ſpread too violent a Poyſon in the Queens minde, and had left there too ſtrong impreſſions of evil, to permit that the Court ſhould recover its former ſtate; it being the nature of that Princeſs, never to be conſtant, but in thoſe things, which have blaſted her fame. Doubtleſs many of thoſe, who ſaw thoſe diſorders, will eaſily imagine, of whom I ſpeak: But to ſatisfie all the world, and that no man perſwade himſelf, I have invented this, I do ingenuouſly confeſs, that the Picture I have now drawn of a Monſter, of a mercenary and impudent fellow, of a man of nothing, of a baſe heart, and, in a word, of an Atheiſt, is that of *Bourdelot*, who, like a great Maſtiff, eats this day the bread of the poor, and ſucks the blood of the Crucifix; having obtain'd an Abbey of the King of France, by the urgent interceſſion of CHRISTINA, who took ſo much to heart the getting of that Benefice, (which Rome, inform'd of *Bourdelot*'s ill qualities, had refus'd him) that ſhe ceas'd not her importunities to the Court of France, till ſhe ſaw her Dagon ſit in the Temple of God. This Monſter then being ſhamefully expell'd out of Swedland, the Queen hath ſince conſtantly ſhew'd her ſelf ſuch, as he did leave her, that is, a Lady without Religion, Piety, Vertue, and Fidelity; diſſolute in her life, and libertine in her ſpeeches; a cheat, ſlanderer, and jeerer; and of whom one might truly ſay, She had nothing Royal, but the Kingdom. Who will not wonder at ſo ſtrange and prodigious a change? Who will not ſay, That Queen is fallen from an eminent ſtate to a lowe condition?

tion ? But you, brave Sweds, will you not weep, to ſee the flow'r of your Kingdom ſo much wither'd, your Amarantha ſo much chang'd; and your Princeſs, who has been long the wonder of this Age, the glory of her Sex, and the ſubject of the whole worlds admiration, be now the May-game of all Nations ? To ſee your Queen, who heretofore was cheriſh'd and eſteem'd by all in general, now become their by-word and laughing-ſtock ? Yes, all your eyes ſhould now be turn'd into as many ſprings of tears, to weep perpetually ſuch a fatal downfal, if divine providence, which would not forſake your Kingdom, had not rais'd you a religious, wiſe, vertuous, valiant, and all-generous King, who may worthily govern you all his life, as you may in reaſon expect from his fair beginnings. And you, ingenious French, will you not ſigh and groan, that your Benefactrix has her hands ſhut to do you good, and can no more beſtow her Bounties upon you: that ſhe who has ſo dearly cheriſh'd your Nation, for your Poets, Muſicians and Dancers, and chiefly for your Gallantry, is now ſeeking her beſt delights amongſt your moſt cruel enemies: and finally, that ſhe, who did formerly protect you, hath now forſaken you ? Yet I perſwade my ſelf, that being of late accuſtom'd to be ill us'd by that Princeſs, you will ſoon dry your tears, and it will better become you to leave the Gothiſh Land for yours: you are not welcom there, but much envied; quit it then with, or after me: I left there many of my friends and acquaintance in that reſolution.

But let's return to our Princeſs, who in truth was for a long time, as I have ſaid, very pious and religious: but ſince, ſhe hath been ſeen doubting, whether there be a God and a Providence, and denying Heaven and Hell, Saints and Devils, Judgement and Reſurrection, and ſo

con-

consequently the Souls Immortalitie. Concerning Christs Incarnation, 'tis but a Fiction in her opinion. Who has not frequented her Court, will hardly believe this : but who has been there during her Reign, will not give me the lye. She hath often made Speeches in full Assemblies, which sufficiently shew'd her sence. I am witness of it, and can pass for an irrefragable one before those who know me. A man of probity, and whose profession permits him not to lye, chiefly in such an occasion, hath told me in private, that he had divers times entertain'd the Queen three or four hours, about the existence of a Deitie, and concerning a Providence, which governs all things in the world ; wherein he had found her very wavering, and making use of all the strongest Arguments which Libertines have forg'd, to oppose those Truths. Yet there is some probabilitie, that what that Princess did in those strange Disputes, was rather to shew her fine wit, then out of a designe to overthrow those Truths so well establish'd in the world, that none but Fools will oppose them ; since natural lights are sufficient in those, who have the right use of Reason, to give them the knowledge thereof. Hers are too bright and great, to permit her to doubt of those high Mysteries : and I am charitably perswaded, that 'twas rather to exercise her wit and rare knowledge, as School-men put theirs forth, in the very beginning of their Theologie, disputing whether there be a God, who is the object of that noble Science ; then by any belief or opinion, which be criminal before God, or injurious unto his existence. Yet it must be confess'd, that our Princess hath been obsetv'd, to call so often those high things in question, so ready to speak against them, and so loose in all such discourses, that thence many did suspect her to be ill grounded in her Religion :

and

and ſhe was often heard ſay after a Sermon, that ſhe did know leſs then before: and where her Prieſts or Miniſters took exception at her, yea preach'd againſt her, chiefly becauſe there was a room full of naked Pictures appointed to pray, praiſe, reade, preach, (they were Pictures repreſenting the Creation of our firſt parents, a little too much to the life) ſhe did reply, that they ſhew'd well their ignorance thereby, not to know that *Adam* and *Eve* were both created ſtark naked; and that it was lawful, to make their pictures in the ſame faſhion, as they came out of the hands of God; and that the Idea's of a Painter were not more criminal then his. 'Tis very true, ſhe hath loſt much of her good name, in th' opinion of all pious and modeſt ſouls, ſince *Bourdelot*'s infernal acquaintance with her, by her licentious liberty, in making her moſt delightful and familiar conferences of laſcivious ſpeeches, tales or ſtories full of obſcenity, in whoſe relation ſhe takes moſt pleaſure, and will abſolutely that ev'ry thing be call'd by its own name, without any diſguiſe, or that ſeaſoning and grain of ſalt, which modeſtie inſpires to all its profeſſors, and perſons well educated.

One of my friends, who upon his admiſſion into her Service, was us'd to entertain her both often and long, obſerving that her minde was delighted with ſuch kinde of tales, did abundantly furniſh her with them: yet becauſe there were ſome of his narrations, which did ſomtimes require more modeſt expreſſions, then the genuine or natural, chiefly before a Royal Majeſtie, and in a maids preſence; as ſhe ſaw him going about his circumlocutions, and ſeeking civil terms, ſhe would boldly ſpeak out the words, though they were never ſo filthy; many of which he hath ſpecified to me, which modeſtie forbids me to write here. Judge of her Religion, by her

her ranging up and down the world without a Minister; preferring her health, (for whose preservation she hath a Physician) to her souls salvation, for which those Ministers are instruments, appointed by God. She made a shew to retain one, who did wait on her as far as Halmstat, upon the frontiers of Denmark, where she did dismiss him. Another was offered her at Hamburgh, whom she made a shew to accept, though the event declar'd, she had no minde to him. And indeed, such persons had been but as thorns in her feet: for, having a designe to profess Popery, the Ministers of the Gospel were no fit attendants on her. 'Tis evident, that long before, she took no delight in all their Functions: for, as many persons can testifie, as well as I, she had at Church so little Religion and Zeal, that her countenance shew'd enough, what spirit possess'd her. She us'd to sit in a Chair of Purple Velvet, and lean her head and arms on another; questionless building (after the Proverb) fine Castles in the air: and if the Minister, through his zeal to his Charge, or for the merit of his Theme or Subject, did preach and pray a little too long, for the devotion of the Queen and all such luke-warm souls, her custom was, to recreate her weary attention, (if yet she had any at all) in playing with two little Spaniels, which are always with her; or pratling with some of her creatures, if any was then neer. I have sometimes seen her make such a noise with her Fan on her Chair, that if the Priest had had respect and complaisance enough, to give somthing to her humour, he had taken those signes of impatience, as silent commands to make a quick end: but he was no whit the shorter; either because he kept his old custom, or that he would break or bend her impatient disposition, and use her to more pietie, attention, modestie, in the celebration of Divine Mysteries, and so

ſo in the ſweet exerciſe of Chriſtian Religion: which yet could take no effect on her Mind, ſo ſtrong and laſting are *Bourdelot*'s impreſſions on her, and ſo deep all the roots, which the ſeed of Impiety and Diſſolution, he ſow'd in her heart, hath taken there, that no amendment can be expected from her.

That inconſtant Humor has continu'd with her, even in ſtrange Countries, & namely at *Hamburgh*, where we ſaw her at Church, hearing the Word of God, with ſo little reverence & attention, & ſo much impatience, that thereby many men, who went to ſee her through curioſity, were confirm'd in the ill Opinion, they had before conceiv'd of her, by divers Reports made of her, before her Arrival. Even ſome of her Swediſh Prieſts, having Obſerv'd ſo little Zeal in their Princeſs, told me before my departure, out of that cold Country, That they fear'd very much, ſhe would fondly embrace the Superſtitions of Papiſts, ſince ſhe ſlighted ſo viſibly the Religion ſhe was bred in, and lov'd not the other, which is known by the name of the Reformed Churches, having frequently ſaid, *She had rather become a Papiſt, than of the Reform'd Religion*; meaning by this, thoſe of *Geneva*'s Confeſſion, from whom ſhe had a mighty Averſion; either becauſe ſhe was not well inform'd of her Doctrine and Purity, or that the *Lutheran*, in which ſhe has been bred, comes ſomwhat neerer the Roman, chiefly in Ceremonies.

But it is enough of her Religion, (which is now loſt, if ever ſhe had ſincerely any) let's a little Examine her Carriage, in her Wandrings, or Voyages. It was thought convenient, That after ſhe had waited on the Queen her Mother, whoſe ordinary abode is at *Niukupin*, ſhe ſhould go to *Oeland*, which is a very pleaſant Iſle, that ſhe had reſerv'd for her ſelf, and did before

belong to his Royal Highneſs, who doth now Reign over the Sweds, a Nation (though glorious) yet too little for his Merits and aſpiring Valour. Thence ſhe was to paſs by Sea into *Pomerania*, to ſee the Lands and Goods, which were Aſſign'd for her Appannage or Proviſion, by her own Agreement: The King gave Order that Seven Great Ships ſhould be prepar'd for her Tranſportation, under the Command of Marſhal *Wrangle*; and that the Governor of *Oeland* ſhould have in readineſs whatſoever was fit to entertain her Royally, as it became his and her Majeſty: But having made a ſhew to go thither, yea, being gone that way a whole day, ſhe did reſolve to go by Land, and to croſs all *Denmark*, which ſhe did, habited like a Cavalier, with a red Scarf after the Spaniſh *mode*, and thus entred *Hamburgh incognito*, and went to Lodge in the Houſe of a Jew, a Phyſitian by Profeſſion, ſlighting that which the Magiſtrates had deſigned for her. That Action much amaz'd both the Senate, whoſe Honourable Reception and Entertainment ſhe refus'd; and the Prieſts of the Town, who enflam'd with the Zeal of God's Houſe, could not forbear to ſpeak in Publick againſt her, for her Ridiculous and Scandalous Choice of the Houſe of a man, who is by Profeſſion, *a ſworn Enemy of Ieſus Chriſt*. Yet this Meting, for all that, appeared to be ſomwhat too hard; and the wiſer ſort thought, That ſomthing ſhould have been allowed to the condition of a Queen, and that Excuſes ſhould be made for her. But ſhe replied for her ſelf, That Jeſus Chriſt had all his life-time converſed with the Jews; That himſelf was come of their Seed; and that he had preferred their Company to the Company of all other Nations. Now judge ye your ſelves of this Anſwer. When ſhe went out of *Hamburgh*, it was at an unſeaſonable hour, to wit,

wit, at 4 or 5 a Clock in the Morning; at the out-going of a Feaſt, whereat the *Land-grave of Heſſe* had Royally entertain'd her, without taking her leave either of the Senate, or of the Magiſtrates: whereat every one was extremely ſurpriſed. In her Train ſhe being Fifth, or Sixth her ſelf, followed on her Voyage towards the United Provinces, without being accompanied with any Woman, or Maid-ſervant: having left her two *Hollands*-Women (that had ſerved her a long enough time, and which ſhe had brought from *Sweden* with her) at *Hamburgh*, without giving them any Recompence, as ſhe had likewiſe done to her Foot-men and Coach-men: committing her ſelf wholly to the guidance of Seigneur *Eſteenberg*, of whom ſhe made choice above all in her Court, as of the moſt brutiſh and irrational man; and having given the Charge of the *Maſter of her Houſhold*, or Steward, to *Silver-Crona*, whoſe name full of Silver, ſmells rankly of her Gold-ſmith.

She continued her manner of acting in the *Vnited Provinces*, as ſhe had begun it in *Denmark*, and *Hamburgh*. She entred theſe Countries alſo, without making her ſelf known, ſleighting the Preparations that the Lords the States-General of the *Vnited Provinces*, had made for an Honourable Reception of her: and in ſuch manner paſſed through their Towns, until ſhe came to give her ſelf up into the hands of the Spaniards.

But her contentment here could not be full, ſince her good friend *Pigmentelli* is not here, who is the man, that hath taken the place of *Bourdelot*, and who did entirely poſſeſs her, all the time of his Negotiation in *Sweden*: for whom ſhe made Feaſts, Balles, Walks, and pub-lick Rejoycings. And it is not without Reaſon, that many perſons ſuſpected, That it was this man, that

made her aborſe that monſtrous Deſign, to quit the Crown; which ſhe ſayes ſhe had conceived a long enough time before, in her Letter that ſhe wrote to Monſieur *Chanut*, Ambaſſador for the King of *France*, towards the States-General of the Low-Countries. It was he only, that did eat oft'neſt with her, that accompanied her in all her Walks, that entertain'd her at night until 3 or 4 a Clock after mid-night; and laſtly, who was her *Achates*, or inſeparable Companion, and who did no leſs all her buſineſs, than his Predeceſſor *Bourdelot*. It is a great change, To come out of the hands of a *Frenchman*, to fall into the arms of a *Spaniard*, that hath had ſo great a power over her minde, as to obliege her, and make her ſay to the Ambaſſador of *Portugal*, *That ſhe acknowledged not his Maſter, as King of that Country, but only as Duke of* Bregance. Other Miniſters of State have been little better uſed of her. For there is none of them all, from one end to the other, that hath not been neglected: which alſo made them take that reſolution, to baniſh themſelves from the Court, whither they went no more, than their Maſter's Affairs call'd them to it. I muſt not forget that famous Ball, which the Queen made Dance for the farewel to her deereſt Confident; whereof ſhe would bear a part, and repreſent therein the perſon of the *Woman-Fool*, or *Pratling-Houſwife*. Whilſt ſhe was Apparelling her ſelf, ſhe took a fair Diamond from off her finger, and gave it to *Pigmentelli* to keep it for her: which, ſo ſoon as ſhe had on her Apparel, he offered to render her again. But ſhe replied, *That ſhe had never uſed to take that again, which ſhe had once given*. The Stone was eſteem'd at 30 or 40 thouſand Livers. But what ſhall we ſay of that Embaſſage Extraordinary, which ſhe ſent to his Catholick Majeſty, only to thank him, that he had ſent her ſo gallant a man, as *Pigmentelli*?

If

If these great Persons, which she hath called to her at divers times, had been somwhat others than they were, without doubt they had been both better received, and more honourably used. Monsieur *Naudew*, not being able longer to suffer the Disorders and Looseness of that Court, wherein the Muses were no more honored, saw himself constrained to banish himself from it, of his own accord; and did prefer a voluntary Exile, to an abode so little favourable to men of Learning, whom that Princess had loved for some time; but after that *Bourdelot* had put that high gallantry into her head, there was no more to do for them: And all the fair appearances, that she had shewn them, were nothing but made countenances, or rather a remainder as it were of her first Opinions. I call them all to witness, if there be found any one of them, that hath been either fully, or reasonably satisfied, except one, or two, who knew well how to take their time.

Monsieur *Bouchard*, whose Vertue and Knowledge render him worthy of eternal Memory, was used like a Pedant in that Court. The Queen often complained, That he had but very little gallantry in him: and when some represented to her, That gallantry agreed not well with the Profession he made; she answer'd, that she made but very little esteem of a man, that knew nothing but how to read on a Book; and that for being informed in some words of Arabick, her approbation was not thereby to be gained: As if Monsieur *Bouchard* had ever cared much for it. This he well witnessed, When the Queen advertising him of the Design she had to quit the Crown, and demise the Administration of the Kingdom, to retire her self into a Solitude, in the company of some knowing men, of the Number of whom she wished, That he would be one: He did not so much as once to Answer her Letter. And his silence ought

not

not to be reputed other than very reasonable; since he did well in it; and the issue hath made it be seen, that she was full of Hypocrisie, and that what the Queen was doing in the Business, was nothing but Deceit, for disguising the Design she had, of running a course of *Light-houswifery*. But let us suppose that the thing was, as she described it; yet Monsieur *Bouchard* had Reason to be silent, having been worse used, than can be well imagined; in that they left him to a lodging for the space of six weeks, before they made so much as a shew to visit him: And that he was very ill rewarded, after the pains he had taken to come to *Sweden*, only to satisfie the Queens desire.

The good Counsels that this Princess gave, and the lesson that she taught to the deceased Monsieur *de Saumaise* his little Son, is a thing very pleasant to hear. Most people know, That after the death of this great man, whose Memory the Queen honoured with a Funeral-Oration, which she made a Professor of the University of *Upsal* make; she wrote a fine Letter to the Lady, his Widow, wherein she set forth her purpose of Educating her Son, that was the only Child, of all that Monsieur *de Saumaise* had, appointed to Studies. The Mother, to discharge her self of this, as well as of her elder Sons, sent him into *Sweden*: to whom this Princess, when he came to do his Reverence unto her, and to Kiss her Hand, represented, that she would not that he were only knowing, as was his Father; but that she moreover desired, that he were a very gallant spirit, and learned with much care the Fashion, wherewith to govern himself at Court: that a Gentleman ought to make as much Profession of Gallantry at the least, as of Letters. This fine Lesson read unto a yong Boy, subject as yet unto the Rod, and to Correction, made so great

an

an impreſſion in his minde, that after that, he was heard to ſpeak of little elſe, but of going to viſit the Ladies of the Court, and of Vaulting and Dancing. This good Princeſs did take ſo great a care of him, that ſhe ſuffered him to ſtay all the time he was in *Sweden*, in a Victualling-houſe, ſo ill appointed, that he looked rather like a Beggar, than a Gentleman's Son of good Birth. And to aſcend back again from the Son to the Father, it is true, that this Perſonage ſeems to have been better uſed, than any other man of Letters: and yet for all that, he departed out of *Sweden* diſcontented enough; whereof I profeſs that I knew not the Reaſons. Yet I have ſeen of his Letters in *Sweden*, written to ſome of his Friends, which ſaid, That he repented him in ſome ſort, that he had deſerved the approbation of the Queen, ſeeing ſhe was ſo eaſie to give it to Perſons, that were altogether unworthy. But I know well, that ſo he hath been ſpoken of in that Court, for a Sir *Iohn*, whoſe Wife wore the Breeches.

Voſſius and *Heinſius*, if they will tell the truth, have no great cauſe, to be the beſt contented with her, of the world. *Voſſius* hath had all the pains, that can be imagined, to make himſelf to be paid off that which he had laid out for the Queen, in buying of divers Books, which he had done for her. And *Heinſius* is yet to ſue for what is due to him, for the like cauſe, and moreover for the Services that he did her Majeſty. Judge by this, if men of Learning be in any great real eſteem with her. Without doubt, had they been leſs knowing, and more gallant, that their buſineſs had been better carried through, according to the Example of *Bourdelot*, whom the Queen hath given her Paſs to, as the excelleneſt and firſt amongſt men in the world. And I can aſſure you thus much, that he could not ſpeak congruous Latin.

I have

I have ſeen a *Note* written with his own hand, to a Biſhop that had been chaſed out of his Country for Religion, and that did implore her Majeſties aſſiſtance by his interceſſion: In which *Note*, within the compaſs of 4 or 5 lines, which it did contain, I found Three or Four Solœciſms and Barbariſms: And the ſenſe of the whole ſo confuſed, that there was need to go to a Wizard, for to have it made plain. This *Note* is yet in the hands of a man unblamable, that is in *Sweden*; at leaſt, if he be not come out of it ſince my ſelf: the which without doubt he keeps, to put it in the *Vatican*, or in the Kings Library at *Paris*, for an Authentick Witneſs of the profound knowledge of *Bourdelot*, who to the Queen of *Sweden* vaunted, and chanted ſo much, becauſe he could make ſome ſorry ryming French verſes, though neither that, but imperfectly enough. If it be poſſible for me to get a Copy of this *Note*, I ſhall impart it to the Publick, with ſome other Memorials, that I expect from *Sweden*; whereby you ſhall know, whether *Bourdelot* be ſo great a man, as the Queen hath made him paſs for; and whether he had reaſon to cenſure all the great men that went to *Sweden*, and the Latine Poeſies of Monſieur *Maurus* (whoſe knowledge is known, chiefly in all the Countries of the Lords the Eſtates General of the United Provinces) wherein he found, that the word *Poſteri*, was not good Latine, but that he ſhould have ſaid, *Poſteritas*; whereunto the Queen applauded, becauſe *Bourdelot* had ſaid it. It is ſurely a matter of Aſtoniſhment, why a Princeſs ſo well furniſhed with Light of Knowledge, ſuffered her ſelf ſo ſtrongly to be blinded by this infamous fellow: which even the meaneſt of the Commons in *Sweden* having obſerved, they perſwaded themſelves that he had a familiar Spirit; and that he uſed Charms to bewitch her Minde:

I have

I have heard it ſaid by many, whilſt I was in *Sweden*. And when I attempted to put this conceit out of their heads, as being a Flout, or as a Dull conceit; I found them ſo deeply perſwaded of it, that my attempt was without effect.

But what ſhall we ſay of the horrible injuſtice that this Princeſs hath done to her Creditors? When I look upon it, I tremble; and think that thoſe, who have taken her demiſing the Crown as a famous playing the Bankrupt, had ſome reaſon for it. It is ſeen, (I am a witneſs of it) that there be ſome Merchants of Jewels, from whom ſhe had taken up Goods, from ſome for Ten, from others for Twenty, and from ſome for Thirty thouſand Livres, to whom ſhe hath delay'd payment to be made, for Six, for Ten, and for Fifteen months beyond the time, yea, two yeers, and in the end went her way, leaving Tickets, that will be paid *ad Calendas Græcas*, that is, never. Is it not a matter of aſtoniſhment, and which cryeth for vengeance to God, that theſe poor people have been forced to leave off their lawful occaſions and buſineſs, and to conſume their Livelihood, in attendance for their own in a ſtrange Country, where the expences are great; and, at laſt, to ſee themſelves left empty handed? But be not at all aſtoniſhed at this: *Bourdelot*'s Maxime, which the Queen hath exactly followed, was this: *That Kings might diſpoſe of the goods of private men, as they pleaſed.* But whence hath he drawn this falſe doctrine? Without doubt, from the bottom of his black and baſe ſoul. I have ſeen ſome of theſe Merchants with all poſſible earneſtneſs deſire their Jewels back again, ſince they ſaw themſelves out of hope to be paid: but they were in the hands of a Princeſs, that had a heart rather to give them away to others, then ever to render them to their right owners. This was not for want of information of the

wrong was done these men : for she was sufficiently advertised thereof, by Petitions and Requests which they presented to her; all which she received from them, and read them upon her pierced Chair, and then wip'd her hinder parts with them.

But what Justice can be expected from that person, that doth not right to her self? Look a little on her carriage in the Oeconomy of her house. Her *Intendant*, to whom she sent all her Creditors, was a man that could neither reade, nor write, except onely his name, which he learn'd to scribble a little time since. He was a Taylor by trade, and was called *Master Iohn*; whose Needle & Shears this Princess hath changed to a Sword, he being made a Noble-man; and hath given him the name of *Lyon Crona*: but truly he carries the likeness of a Monkey, rather then of a Lion. This illustrious Blade knew so well how to govern the Queens minde, that she committed to him the *Intendancie* and *Oeconomy* of her whole house: who following his Mistress's Genius, he studied, in the midst of his Ignorance, to deceive the world; and made himself so knowing in that Art, that there was none, but such as had no business with him, that have escaped his Knaveries. He began to enrich himself, by the Voyage he made into *France*, for the provisions of the Queens Coronation; from whence having brought an heap of the worst Stuffs, he made Merchandise of them in *Sweden* after this manner: When the Queen gave commission to her domesticks, or others, to make them Cloaths, *Mr. Iohn* directed them to the Merchant with whom he had intrusted his Magazine; so as by this means they were constrained at last to go to him, who gave them wares of the value of 50 Crowns, for 100; which they entered into Recognizance to pay him for: which change was not over-disadvantageous to him.

To

To pass from the *Intendant*, to the *Vallets of her Chamber*, who in in their own kinde governed also the Queen: they were personages worthy to be known. One of them was called *du Piquet*, a French-man by Nation, who was the most infamous Pimp in the world; and his wife had been kept in prison at *Bruxels* or *Antwerp*, for her infamous tricks. The other of them was call'd *Alexander*, an Italian born, who they say *drew his illustrious extraction from a very renowned Cobler*. And both these were called, *The Queens Piggs*; whom she made Noble-men, though they had never been remarkable for any thing, but Infamy and Baseness. If it was, because they had served her, there were an hundred others, who have had that honour, and who did it more honourably, and with more faithfulness, and more glory. See here how this Princess kept the laws of Justice in all her carriage.

Ask, if you please, the *Gentlemen of her Chamber*, and her *Maids of Honour*; you shall finde, that in a moment she quitted her self of them all, and of her Pages also, without so much as paying them their allowances; to say nothing of Recompence, which is no more to be found neer her.

Speak but a little to the *Secretary of her Commands*, who served her eighteen months with an incredible diligence and fidelity, and who caused more to be writ in his time to the Queen, and to Kings, and to all the Princes of *Europe*, than all his predecessors had done: He will tell you, that she was ingrate to him, in this, that she left him not a *sous*, although he made all the petty expences of the Cabinet, himself.

It is not long time since she had made a *Neapolitan Gentleman* come from *Rome*, and had written to Madam the *Dutchess of Aiguillon*, that he should not repent for having come to her service; because *she knew not onely how*

to acknowledge the ſervices that any did her, but alſo to recompenſe them, even to their good wills that they ſhould teſtifie to have for her. But all theſe fair words were without any real effect, and were but winde, that is diſſipated; or as ſmoak, that vaniſheth: and they left this poor Gentleman (though he was of very good birth) amongſt the troop of thoſe that were miſerable.

But what ridiculous entertainment did ſhe give that *French Gentleman*, that brought to her the *little young Monſieur de Saumaize*, who for ſome reaſon, that I will not here mention, voluntarily baniſhed himſelf out of *France*, and from his own houſe; and who had undertaken that ſorry condition, either to acknowledge the obligations that he had to the deceaſed *Monſieur de Saumaize*, or that he was perſwaded, that this Princeſs, being a great Queen, he might hope to receive from her all manner of ſatisfaction, when ſhe ſhould be informed of his worth and valour? we ſaw him neglected in *Sweden*, as much, or more then any other; and ſhe ſuffered him to go his way, without giving him any thing at all, as an acknowledgement of the pains he had taken for her, and the care he had taken of that little childe. Is not here a brave way of knowing how to *recompenſe ſo far, as to reach even the good will that any had towards her?*

I cannot omit the mentioning of the injuſtice that was done to a *Valet of the Barderob*, called by the name of *du Pleſſis*, a French-man by Nation; who for having made himſelf too watchful towards his Miſtreſſes ſervice (who thereby perhaps was hindered of her night-practices with *Pigmentelli*) cauſed him one evening to be beaten by her Foot-men, diſguiſed in gray cloaths: which he got of her, in recompenſe of all his ſervices done her, and his great diligence. A brave faſhion, ſurely, of acknowledging her ſervants!

I omit

I omit many others; as, the *Governour of her Pages*, called *La Selle*, who having a twofold charge in the Queens houſe, carryed himſelf therein with a behaviour ſo wiſe, and ſo diſcreet, that her ſelf confeſſed, that ſhe had nothing to ſay againſt him; whoſe merit therefore made him be choſen for his Highneſs the *Prince Atolf*, to accompany him in his travels: who yet was no better uſed by her, than others. He is come out of *Sweden*, full of Honours indeed, but very empty of money, at leaſt, for any that he had from the Queen. A great Princeſs indeed, and worthy that perſons of honour and quality ſhould ſerve her!

But before we lay aſide the Pen, for a farewel, let us ſpeak a little to our *French Muſicians*. When the *Count Magnus de la Garde* was ſent Ambaſſadour to the moſt Chriſtian King of *France*, by her Majeſtie of *Sweden*; he gave commandment for the choice of a Company or Set of Violins or Muſicians; to whom, by contract ſigned with his hand, he promiſed conditions very reaſonable. Theſe poor people engaged themſelves for their voyage into *Sweden*, where at the beginning they were uſed favourably enough; whether it was, that the Queen is much pleaſed with new things; or, that ſhe found the harmony of the French Violins was better and more charming than that of Viels, or Swediſh Timbrels: But that laſted no long time; and at this day they are in ſuch miſery, that there be ſome of them, who are indebted for all their expences ſince their wages dried up, ſo that it was not poſſible for them, by any ſollicitations or purſuits they made, to get any part of that which was ſo authentically promiſed them. The Queen danced in the Balls and Ballets, to the cadence of their Violins, until ſhe withdrew behinde the Theatre; from whence none of them could ſee her return, to furniſh them with

Strings;

Strings; ſo that I think they may now hang up their Inſtruments on a hook. But why did not you, as thoſe gelded Italians did, who deſired leave to be gone, as ſoon as they wanted money; and were ſtuffed up with Rheums and Flegms, when their purſes were empty? Your gentleneſs hath marred you; and you have ſeen, that for having too much ſlackned of that which was your due, your Inſtruments are unſet.

Doubtleſs, thoſe that reade what I write, will hardly believe it. But let him believe it that will, I am fully aſſured, that ſuch as have ſeen the eſtate of the Court of *Sweden*, or have been truly informed thereof, will know I ſpeak leſs thereof than what may be ſaid: and I would bring nothing hither, *I have not ſeen my ſelf*. When I ſhall have received the Memorials that I am promiſed out of *Sweden*, I ſhall impart them to the Publike, to undeceive it in many things. I hope to receive them by ſome French-man, of whom that Country now disburdens her ſelf by little and little, and who were well ſhaken when I came away. You may have patience, if you pleaſe, till that time; when you may know ſomething more private and particular of Queen *Chriſtina*: or if not, take this further account at preſent. She going towards *Bruxels*, was met on her way four miles from that City, by the Archduke *Leopoldus*, and many Gallants of his Court; by whom ſhe was conducted to the ſaid Duke's Palace, where ſhe was entertained with Plays, Balls, Feaſts, and all Gallantry imaginable. She was Royally feaſted by the Earl of *Fuenſaldagne*, who (for that end) ſent Letters to ſeveral Cities and Towns in the *Low-Countries*, for Rarity and Variety: to the Citie of *Gant*, for Veal; to *Bruges*, for Capons; to *Antwerp*, for Fiſh; to *Mons*, for Mutton; to *Ardine*, for Veniſon; to *Lille* and *Torney*, for Poultry of all ſorts. Theſe preſented them-

themſelves by troops, to welcom her to *Bruxels*. But nothing could be more pleaſing to her, then the ſweet company of *Pigmentelli*; who was complacent not only in reſpect of his perſon, but alſo in regard of the ſtately preſents ſent from his Maſter the King of *Spain*, who conceived no ſmall joy at the reception of that Royal Convert into his Dominions. Thus ſhe deluded Time with variety of Delights, until the Duke's departure to the Army; whom ſhe preſented with a Gallant Horſe, ſumptuouſly accoutred with Gold and Diamonds to a very great value. In *September* ſhe departed thence, bending her courſe for *Italy*, with a very numerous Train; poſting it thorow the Country after her wonted manner; having alſo a long Tail of Jeſuites and Friers, which ſhe trailed after her to *Inſpruck* in *Tirol*, the reſidence of the Grand Duke of that Country; where her entertainment was extraordinary, and where all the Nobility and Gentry in the Country were by the Duke ſummoned to appear, in all their Pomp, to attend the ſolemn and actual Apoſtatization of this wretched Queen; which was performed thus: She was led by the Archduke to the Franciſcan Church, (attended by a numerous company) where ſhe was ſeated under a Canopie on the left hand, before the high Altar: below her, toward the right hand, were the Archduke and his Lady: over againſt them, *Pigmentelli* the Spaniſh Ambaſſadour, in a Chair by himſelf. The Quire was hung with Crimſon-Velvet, and the ground covered with Red Serge. *Holſteinus* the Popes Nuntio ſtood on the right ſide of the Altar, and ſpake thus: *That Pope* Alexander *the Seventh having underſtood that* Chriſtina *Queen of Sweden had an intent to put her ſelf into the boſome of the Church, had ſent his Letters to teſtifie his approbation of her deſires, and his readineſs to receive her with his Apoſtolical bene-*

benediction : therefore he was there to know whether it was true or no. To which ſhe anſwered in the Affirmative. Then *Holſteinus* deſired, *That in teſtimony of the truth thereof, ſhe would make profeſſion of the Romane Faith, and ſwear to keep it, on the holy Evangeliſts* : which ſhe did, and kiſs'd the Book. Immediately on this, a Chair was ſet for *Holſteinus* to ſit in, and a Cuſhion laid at his feet, on which the Queen kneeled : and then he making the ſigne of the Croſs over her head, and embracing her ſhoulders, gave her Abſolution from all the ſins ſhe had committed. Then were certain ſhort Prayers ſaid (or rather ſung) in Latine, for her : after which, high Maſs was ſung ; and then a Prieſt made a Sermon in Dutch, wherein he exhorted her to forget her People, Country, and Fathers houſe, and to ſtick cloſe to that profeſſion ſhe had taken up. Afterwards, *Te Deum* was ſung with excellent Voices, and Inſtruments of all ſorts, and Drums, (which I never ſaw before in a Church.) All was concluded with the diſcharge of Ordnance, and other demonſtrations of great joy. At night, the Archduke entertained her with a Mask, and Dancing. Here ſhe tarried not long, but departed towards *Italy*. In her way ſhe took *Bologne*, where ſhe was met by the Popes Legat, who was ſent to congratulate her arrival. From thence ſhe went to *Lauretto*, where ſhe offered up a Crown and Scepter to the Idol of the place. Here ſhe ſhewed great external devotion, which ſhe performed with many Ceremonies. Nothing remained now, but that ſhe caſt her ſelf into the Arms of the Pope ; to which purpoſe, ſhe addreſſed her ſelf towards *Rome*, where great preparation was made for her reception : but ſhe, to ſhew her great humility, ſent a Letter beforehand to that holy Father, praying that all ſuch Preparations might be moderated. At her arrival, ſhe was admitted on her knees to kiſs the

hands

hands and feet of the Pope. Having now lodg'd her at *Rome*, I leave her there; wiſhing ſhe would ſeriouſly ruminate on thoſe words of our Saviour, *He* (or ſhe) *that denies me before men, him* (or her) *will I deny before my Father which is in heaven*; whereby ſhe might become ſenſible of her follies, and finde favour at laſt with that God, whom ſhe hath greatly offended by this her abominable Apoſtacie and Backſliding.

The GENIUS of *CHRISTINA* Queen of *Sweden.*

MARS, whom the common opinion makes the Crafts-maſter of Gallant Spirits, and whom Aſtrologians openly proclaim to preſide at the births of great men, having adopted for his ſon the Illuſtrious *Guſtavus of Sweden*; in conſideration of his extraordinary generoſity of minde, Reſolved that the adoption he had made of this great King, ſhould be ratified in the Common-Councel of the gods, that it might be the more authen-

tick : and at the ſame time obtained of that Supreme Senate, that deliberation might be had about a Succeſſor to him, that might not degenerate from him in any of his high qualities. The terms made uſe of by *Mars*, to oblige the firſt of all the gods to convocate this Aſſembly of deities, were uttered thus :

Greateſt of the gods, you that are the diſpenſer of happineſs and of misfortune in humane affairs ; you, that eſtabliſh Thrones, and overturn them when you pleaſe ; Vouchſafe to caſt your eyes upon the happineſs of Sweden, *unto which I have given one of the greateſt Monarchs that this day reigns over men, and whoſe Generoſity conſtrains me to avouch him for my Son : Do me the favour, that the choice I have made of ſo great a King, may be accepted of by the whole Court of heaven. The gods are too juſt, not to ſecond ſo equitable a purpoſe. It will be enough, that you, from your Soveraign Authority, call together the Aſſembly ; in which I would wiſh, that moreover deliberation be had for a Succeſſor to Grand* Guſtavus, *that may be a perfect imitator of his rare Vertues.*

Iupiter having approved of the two Heads of *Mars* his requeſt, diſpatched *Mercury* preſently, to call together the Aſſembly of all the principal gods ; to every one of whom he went, in their ſeveral quarters, and intimated to them the Orders of *Iupiter* ; which imported, *That every one of them ſhould be preſent in the place of their extraordinary Aſſemblies, within eight days ; there to deliberate of a buſineſs of great importance, that concerned the happineſs of one of the greateſt Kingdoms in Europe.* The time that *Iupiter* gave for the aſſembling of the gods, ſerved *Mars* to aſſure himſelf of ſome of the moſt powerful of them, whom he ſollicited with ſo much favour, that, in the end, he brought to his devotion all whom he believed could be moſt uſeful to him in this buſineſs. The time being expired, ſuch gods as had no lawful impediment,

obeyed

obeyed the Orders without failing, that *Mercury* had imparted unto them from *Iupiter*: and the Assembly was found to consist of *Saturn*, *Minerva*, *Venus*, *Mercury*, and *Iupiter* himself, who was the president thereof. He having declared the reasons of this their extraordinary convocating, ordered *Mars* to utter what he had to say: who spake after this manner:

Ye just gods, that watch incessantly over the government of mortal men; you, who are always equally ready to recompense vertue, and to punish vice: Give, of your good favour, attention to one of the justest requests that can ever be presented to you. Sweden (*which at this day contains three of the most ancient Kingdoms of Europe*) *is in possession of one of the greatest Princes of the world: His high vertues, without contradiction, cast more lustre abroad, than the flowers of his Crown: His courage equals that of* Cæsar, *and of* Alexander: *His designes are full of Generosity, that make him to be admired of all Europe, and render him formidable to all the Nations that it contains; and are irreproveable witnesses, that he is the bravest Spirit that can be found. Since therefore, by the irrevocable disposal of the Destinies, I exercise the dominion over all great Courages; and that never any hath been seen, that surpassed this of* Gustavus the Great; *I make authentick declaration, in presence of all your Deities, that I have adopted him for my son; desiring further from your justice, that ye will be pleased to confirm the election that I have made. And because the condition of mortal men permits them not alway to live upon earth, I supplicate this august Assembly, that here it may be deliberated, how to give him such a Successor, as may make him live again amongst men, (when himself shall be placed amongst the gods) by an express imitation of all his rare perfections, which render him the object of admiration to all the world. All heads fit to bear Crowns, are in truth productions that come immediately from heaven: they bear on their brow the character of*

Divinity; they are our Images upon earth, and our Lieutenants, by whom we reign visibly over men. But great Kings, such as Gustavus, *are Demi-gods amongst men, who want nothing but Immortality, to be perfect Deities. And our glory is interested to perpetuate the seed of these great Heroes on the earth, that men may adore our power in him, that we give to them; that they may be constrained to confess, that the gods are just and bountiful, to set over them such powers, as are so accomplished; and that they may be in a continual posture of sending up the veneration that they have to their Masters, so as it redound to the adoration they owe unto the gods.*

The whole Assembly touched with the discourse that *Mars* made thereto, and chiefly with the favourable Memorials that he gave them of the illustrious qualities of the Great *Gustavus*; all the gods interessed themselves with some heat, in a business that they judged very important, and whereof every one by himself alone desired to carry away the honour. There was not one, that approved not of the election which he had made, and did not subscribe it with joy: which having taken back again from the hands of the gods, he put it in his pocket. *Iupiter* thanked him for the care he had taken to cultivate great personages; and exhorted him to continue the same, that so the authority of the gods might always flourish upon earth: and lastly, he prayed the Assembly, that they would deliberate upon the second point declared in the request of *Mars*. Here *Saturn*, with his wrinkled brow, and gravity that looked towards the grave, in quality of the ancientest of the company, took upon him to speak, and represented to the Assembly, That it was he that had the dominion over all cold Climates; and that Reason required, that he alone, with *Mars*, should take the care to give *Sweden* a Successor after *Gustavus*, which was one of the principal Countries

upon

upon which he had influence. But this Propoſal was found ſo ridiculous, that all the Aſſembly oppoſed it openly: and *Minerva* not being able longer to keep ſilence, ſpake after this manner:

"It is not poſſible that the heaven ſhould form a pro-"duction reſembling the Great *Guſtavus*, if but onely "one deity ſhould be employed in the bringing forth "thereof. *Saturn*, that would have the glory of it to him-"ſelf alone, hath not activity enough to do it. And no "one of us, that have our different and diſtinct perfe-"ctions, can collect all thoſe excellent qualities that "are requiſite to one that ſhould ſucceed *Guſtavus*. "Therefore I think it very equitable, that ſome number "of this Aſſembly, and no one alone, be deputed to take "pains in this buſineſs. And to prevent all conteſtati-"ons that may enſue upon this Deputation, it were ne-"ceſſary that the Lot ſhould decide it; or elſe, that "each of us ſubmit himſelf to the determination of *Iu-"piter* herein. But *Iupiter* excuſed himſelf very diſ-creetly, fearing that he might procure the indignation of ſome of the gods againſt himſelf, ſhould he prefer either of them before others: ſo that the Aſſembly reſol-ved with one accord to uſe the firſt Expedient. So the Lot being caſt, it fell upon *Minerva*, *Venus*, *Mars*, and *Mercury*: of whom *Iupiter* and *Saturn* having taken their leave, they withdrew themſelves to their own places, to give way to the other to uſe their endeavours peaceably in an affair of ſo great importance.

The firſt point that was agitated amongſt them, was, to determine of what ſex the Succeſſor of *Guſtavus* ſhould be, ſeeing the number of gods and goddeſſes de-puted to the work, was equal. After ſome diſpute on both ſides, *Minerva* and *Venus* carried it, rather by a be-nevolent conceſſion of the two gods, than by ſtrength of

rea-

reason; becauſe *Minerva* had done *Mercury* ſome pleaſure but few days before; and *Venus* alſo had done *Mars* a ſecret favour, during the eight days of reſpite before the coming together of the Aſſembly. This being concluded, it was readily agreed further, That *Venus* ſhould faſhion her body at her diſcretion; *Minerva* ſhould give her an inclination to the Sciences; *Mars*, an humour Generous and Martial; and *Mercury* ſhould indue her with his lightneſs and inconſtancie of nature. And of the mixture of the influences of theſe four deities, as of the concourſe of the four Elements, it was, that *Chriſtina the Great*, the daughter of *Guſtavus the Great*, was made up.

And in truth, he that will reflect upon the moſt remarkable paſſages of her life, ſhall ſee in her a marvelous diſpoſition to the knowledge of all things worthy; much of Generoſity, and a Lightneſs incredible. *Minerva* had the firſt years of her life; *Venus* drew her off at laſt from her profound meditations and ſtudies, and ſet her on a height of Gallantry: *Mercury* taking his turn, to ſhew his power, made her caſt her ſelf down from a Throne, to take her walks about the world. But *Mars* hath always had the Aſcendent during the whole courſe of her life, to this preſent: for it muſt be confeſſed, that whether ſhe gave her ſelf to ſtudie, or to Divertiſements, or to Walks, that in all things ſhe ſhewed her ſelf a very generous Queen. During her under-age, ſhe was obſerved to take pleaſure in all the Exerciſes that might beſeem the perfection of a Princeſs: and that with ſuch towardlineſs, that thereby ſhe gave ground of very great and extraordinary hopes concerning her. So ſoon as her Wit was ſomewhat ripened, that ſhe ſaw her ſelf capable of the knowledge of gallant things, ſhe ceaſed not to take pains for the acquiring a perfect know-

knowledge therein. She ſought out for the greateſt men in *Europe*, to ſatisfie this her natural greedineſs that ſhe had after all kinde of Knowledge. This Princeſs hath been ſeen, in the coldeſt days of Winter, in that cold Country, to riſe by four of the clock in the morning, to have communion with the Muſes in her Cabinet; where ſhe ſtayed commonly until nine, when ſhe was to prepare for her appearing in publike, and to the Council of her Kingdom, where ſhe ſhewed an admirable depth of wit, by the ready and ſubtil reſolutions that ſhe gave upon all ſorts of affairs that were there propoſed. The Divertiſements that ſhe loved beſt, were, to be converſant with knowing perſonages, and with them to commune about ſome point of learning. Her ordinary Entertainments were very different from ſuch as for the moſt part are uſed in Courts, eſpecially in any Court whereof a woman is the head. Her pooreſt entertainment was as good, as the profoundeſt ſtudies of the greateſt Doctor of the *Sorbonne* could have given: and one would eaſily have believed, to hear this Princeſs utter ſo many excellent things, that ſhe had had ſecret communication with ſome Goddeſs, that inſpired her with ſuch high knowledge: yea, I perſwade my ſelf, that ſhe might eaſily have gain'd the ſame opinion of her ſelf, amongſt that groſs-witted people of *Sweden*, as the Ceremonious *Pompilius* had amongſt the people of *Rome*, before they were poliſhed, & whilſt they yet ſlept in the rudeneſs of ſuch perſons as inhabit Foreſts and Mountains. The extraordinary aſſiduity, wherewith ſhe gave her ſelf to the reading of all books of greateſt worth, ſo repleniſhed her minde with ſparkling light, that in one hour ſhe uttered more choice & rare ſayings, then is ordinarily done in a whole year, in the moſt famous Univerſity of *Europe*; and one moment of her diſ-

courſe

course gave more instruction, than an hundred lessons taken from the greatest Doctor of *Salamanca*. Hath any ever seen a Princess possess the knowledge of nine or ten Tongues, as she doth? If History vaunteth of Queen *Elizabeth* so much, that she could hold discourse in good French with the French Ambassadour, in perfect Castilian with the Ambassadour of *Spain*, and in very refined Tuscan with the Princes of *Italy*: what praises shall be recorded in favour of the *Great Christina*, who can hold discourse almost with all the Nations in *Europe*, in their own Languages? History can never speak so well of this Princess, as she speaks of it; whereof she hath an admirable knowledge. She hath learned all the Sciences that are called Humane, with so much perfection, that there is no Author, Greek or Latine, yea even the most difficult Poets, which she doth not expound with a marvelous facility. The Mathematicks, Philosophy Natural and Moral, have not escap'd her knowledge; which she hath carryed along even unto Theologie, whereof I have heard her discourse with an incredible subtilty. Behold, what the Genius of the Great *Christina* hath been, under the Empire of *Minerva*! to whom *Venus* succeeded.

This gentle Goddess, that had but sorrily acted her part in the formation of the body of this Princess, she being but poorly furnished with those accommodations requisite to the beauty of a woman, (for she is little, and crooked, having a hollow bending on one side, that spoils the grace of her walking) would yet have it to be seen, that this body, so poorly fashioned, was sufficiently capable of the highest sort of Gallantries: and after *Christina* had abandoned the Muses, she was observed to delight her self in Dancing and Balls, wherein she had always the better. Such discourses as were most dissolute,

pleased

pleaſed her beſt ; and wanton poſtures liked her better by far, than a modeſt behaviour. Great men for Learning (as *Bouchard* and *Naudæus*) were in no more eſteem with her, becauſe they were not more gallant than became them ; and their demeanour was accounted by her ridiculous, becauſe they were too ſerious, and too modeſt. I have heard her tell ſuch tales, as modeſty will not permit me to commit to writing : and I know an Eccleſiaſtical perſon of high degree, with whom I had contracted a very ſtrict amity in *Sweden*, that hath recreated her an hundred times, by telling her ſuch ſtories as the moſt diſſolute woman would hardly have born. Out of this high ſtrain of Gallantry, or rather Diſſoluteneſs, whereof ſhe made a publike profeſſion, ſhe ſtep'd into impietie ; and thoſe fair lights that ſhe had acquired by ſtudie, and which before had ſerved to regulate her manners, furniſhed her now with reaſons and arguments to fight againſt the ſacred Myſteries of Chriſtian Religion. She hath not onely been ſeen to doubt of that ſacred Myſtery of the Incarnation, but even alſo to mock at it ; and to ſay, in imitation of *Leo* the tenth of the Houſe of *Medici*, *That Fable of Chriſt is very profitable for the Romane Kitchin.* She ſpake not of *Divine Providence*, but under the term of *Deſtiny*, after the manner of Profane Authors.

Her chief Maximes were,

1. *That we ought to love God, as the fountain of all good ; but that we ſhould not fear him at all : becauſe it were a ridiculous thing, to fear a Being that is eſſentially good, and is incapable of evil. But that we ought to fear evil men, that can hurt us a thouſand ways, and which are the onely devils, whereof the common people have ſo ſtrong a belief.*

2. *That a right-ſet minde ſhould never either repent, or pardon ; becauſe repentance and pardon are always accompa-*

nied with unmanlineſs, or baſe-mindedneſs. That indeed a perſon ought always to conſult upon that which he takes in hand; but that he ſhould take an irrevocable reſolution to follow it, and never change.

3. That the moſt particular and ſelf-ended opinions, are the beſt, and ſoundeſt; and that that which men at this day call Religion, is nothing but a poor illuſion of men, wherewith the moſt part are pleaſed to deceive themſelves. For what likelihood is there, that a Belief that blindeth a man, and forbids all reaſoning againſt it, ſhould be true? What reaſon is there to believe that, which one cannot comprehend; yea, and to impoſe an obligation on us to believe it? This is all one, as to deſire a man to put out his eyes, that he may ſee the better; and to put him in ſuch a condition, as that thereby ye may be able to perſwade him to the greateſt abſurdities in the world. And that from hence, the many Sects are found ſcattered over the earth, are but ſo many pure dotages, and fond imaginations of ſome men, who have been deſirous to make themſelves famous, in declaring themſelves the heads of ſome parties: whereat ſhe wondered nothing, becauſe there is no conceit or opinion ſo ridiculous, that hath not its followers.

4. That the Doctrine of Plato of the univerſal ſoul of the world, could not be confuted, but with falſe Reaſons: and that ſhe could not perſwade her ſelf of the immortality of the ſoul, but by making it go and return into its own principle again; which is this univerſal ſoul, whereof our ſoul makes a part.

5. That Moſes hath been as great an Impoſtor, as he was a good Wit. For ſhe could convince of falſhood the pretended Miraculous paſſage of the Iſraelites thorow the Red-ſea: foraſmuch as Numenius, Præfect of Antiochus, making War againſt the Perſians, had got a famous Victory over thoſe Perſians in the ſame place, at ſuch a time, and in the ſame manner as Moſes did over Pharaoh; to wit, by obſervation of the flux and reflux of the Arabian Gulf.

I could

I could say more, if her self did not publish it by all her thoughts, which are now known to the greater part of *Europe*; and if I had not some horrour to set them down in writing.

Mercury seeing that this libertine humour, and with such a bent carryed to all Gallantry, was too deeply rooted in her heart, and that she as easily followed it to Recreations, as she had done before to Studies; thought it to his purpose, to associate himself with *Venus*; who was very well pleased with his company. So they strove each with other, which of them should make her the most *Prattling Light-housewife*, or most inconstant. But notwithstanding this, Queen *Christina* hath been noted for a long time, even from her Cradle, to be naturally of a very wavering minde; and that *Mercury* also had the dominion over her humour from her very infancie: But onely I begin to shew his Kingdom (to keep my order in what I write) since that change (almost unheard-of) that hath been made in the person of *Christina*, when of a Soveraign she made her self a Subject; and preferred a vagabond and wandering life, to the glory and magnificence of a Throne. To say the truth, this thought had possessed her minde more than four or five years, before she put it in execution; and it had been blamed by some great men, that had used their endeavour to dissuade her from it. Monsieur *Chanut* Ambassadour of *France*, Monsieur *Saumaize*, and Monsieur *Spanheim*, did their endeavour to divert her from this purpose, which they judged would turn to her disadvantage. But it was in vain. For the desire she had to see forraign Countries, and the new world, carryed her away from the wise counsels of those persons of quality. And so much power had Novelty and Change over her spirits, that she turned her self to all sorts of objects, just as a Weather-cock is turned a-

bout at the pleasure of every winde. The last that came to her Court, were always most welcome, and most made of for a time, and received all imaginable testimonies of Amity; but yet without any effect, for the most part. For this lightness of minde in her, caused her to follow a kinde of Deceitfulness, of so fine a thred, that one could hardly take it up, or perceive it, but in a long process of time, and after one had taken a great deal of pains in her service, and expended much money, and then found himself far from being recompensed for his service, or satisfied for his disbursements. The neediness of a thousand persons, that she hath employed, to satisfie her fantastical humours, cries with a loud voice for vengeance in the presence of God, who, one may judge, according to appearance, hath left this Princess to a Reprobate-sense; and given her goodly lights, that she should not see at all; and exposed her to the laughter of all *Europe*, to satisfie, in part, his own justice. Since her fall, from which it is too probable she will never rise again, she hath committed so many kindes of Extravagancies, that she hath made her self the Fable of all the world. A little written Piece, which one of my friends communicated to me, and which I believe to be common, describes them well enough; which may suffice to give any one an account of them, that desire to be informed concerning them. It is said, that even at this day, amidst the Spanish Gravity, she shews so much levity, that the *Venerable Fathers* of the *Society of Iesus*, have much ado, with all their wit, to know the temper of so Motley a *Genius*, that assumes more shapes and postures, than ever *Proteus* himself did: They have so much ado, to know of what Religion she is, that they that make it their only business to decide the points of Faith, cannot tell what to make of hers: They are in doubt also,

she had two Sons & the one of them called Joh

ſo, what to think of her Sex, becauſe ſometimes they ſee her in mens apparel, and ſometimes in womens; and for the moſt part, they ſee her in ſuch a faſhion as partakes of both, as if ſhe were an Hermaphrodite. Theſe great men (the Jeſuites) that at this day have the aſcendent over the mindes of ſo many Princes, have not been able as yet to diſcover, with what Byas this Princeſs muſt be handled. They finde her diſcourſe admirable; and ſo it is indeed; and beyond whatſoever one can imagine. Her cogitations are exceedingly raiſed above what is common; ſhe hath a fountain of Wit inexhauſtible; a ſtrong Reaſon, a charming Diſcourſe; a deportment as familiar as ſweet: but with all this, they are conſtrained to confeſs, that they do not yet know *Chriſtina*, that changes her Affections as often as ſhe changes her Smock, and that loves and hates almoſt both at one inſtant. When I look upon the diſgrace ſuſtained by Count *Magnus de la Garde*, wherein he fell with her, at that time when one would have thought that all ſhould have ſmiled upon him, and when there was neither appearance, nor reaſon, that he ſhould have been removed from the Court, I flatter my ſelf, that I know the *Genius* of the Queen ſomewhat neer, after a particular ſtudy of her, and the moſt ſerious reflexions that I made upon ſo many ſeveral matters that came to paſs during the time of my ſojourning at *Vpſal*. And this hath encouraged me to ſet down my thoughts, concerning which, I can anſwer any with truth, that they are free from paſſion, however they may ſeem not to be very favourable to this Princeſs: But yet they are more favourable than they may ſeem to be: for I proclaim with a loud voice, that I hold *Chriſtina* for the moſt extraordinary perſon of the world; for the cleareſt-ſighted

ed and moſt knowing Queen, that hath ever appeared upon the earth: That her Diſcourſe is adorable, anſwerable to her Wit; That ſhe underſtands her ſelf vell enough, to take up and know great ſpirits, and great nen; and laſt, That ſhe is capable of the faireſt and moſt extraordinary atchievements, that ever have been done by any Heroical ſpirits in Antiquity. But if I ſay, that ſhe makes but little account of Chriſtian Religion; that ſhe hath a Faith very particular to her ſelf; that ſhe is a Deceiver, and inconſtant: there's none of thoſe, that ever had the honour to have frequented her Court, that doth not fully accord with me, and is not conſtrained to confeſs, that my conceptions of her do her no wrong. But if any accuſe me of too little reſpect to a head that wore a Crown, to ſpeak thereof with ſuch liberty; I anſwer, that I owe her no ſuch reſpect; but, to follow her own Maximes, I owe her rather the contrary, (although in truth I dare ſay, that I bear her no hatred) than any ſuch reſpect: I was neither born her Subject, nor her Slave; ſhe never did me any good, although ſhe was bound to have done it: And all the obligation that ever I had to her, that I remember, was, that ſhe received me favourably, when I had firſt the honour to kiſs her hand; and that I deſerved to obtain her approbation, if I may believe the report that one made to me thereof, that had ordinary communication with her. But I have learned, long ſince, to ſlight the approbation of four ſorts of perſons: that is to ſay, Of an Ignorant, becauſe he is uncapable of underſtanding the value of a thing; Of a Flatterer, becauſe he applaudeth for his own ends; Of a Deceiver, becauſe ordinarily his thoughts are diſguiſed; and, Of a light and unconſtant perſon, becauſe the eſteem that

ſuch

ſuch a one makes of any thing, is bred rather by Fancie and Humour, than from Reaſon.

To ſay that *Chriſtina* is either ignorant, or a Flatterer, it cannot perhaps be affirmed with truth: but to believe that ſhe is a Deceiver, and Inconſtant, one will thereby do her no wrong. It muſt be confeſſed, for all this, that this Princeſs, amidſt all her capricious and fantaſtical humours, and amidſt her Gallantries, when ſhe gave greateſt attendance on her books, hath been carryed all along with an humour extraordinarily *Martial*, and full of Bravery.

Minerva had ſometime the command of her mind: *Venus* poſſeſs'd it afterwards; and ſome do affirm, that ſhe poſſeſſes it as yet. *Mercury*, that had poſſeſſed himſelf of her from her Cradle, yet made no ſuch great ſhew of his power, as ſince he made her throw her ſelf down from a Throne. But *Mars* hath at all times governed the humour of *Chriſtina*, which hath not failed to drain all *Sweden*, to furniſh the inbred greedineſs that ſhe hath, to give to others.

Indeed, under the Reign of *Minerva*, ſhe hath expreſs'd ſuch Liberalities, as were worthy of a Queen; and that to all great Perſonages that were ſent for by her, or that came to *Sweden* otherwiſe, upon particular occaſions of their own. Monſieur *de la Tuillerie*, *Chanut*, and *Saumaize*, may inform you of this.

Under the Reign of *Venus*, he Largeſſes were not leſſened; whereof *Bourdelot* and *Pigmentelli* can tell you.

And under *Mercury*, ſhe gave the rareſt Preſent that can be given from one to another. Speak but to the King of *Sweden* that reigns at this day, and he will

11352-8

will confeſs, that it is by *the Grace of God*, and the *Liberality of Chriſtina*, that he ſits upon the Throne. The Medals coyn'd at the time of his Coronation, ſpeak it publikely: on the one ſide whereof, there is an arm holding a Crown, with this Inſcription under it; [*FROM GOD, AND FROM CHRISTINA.*] And even yet, now ſhe hath deveſted her ſelf of her Kingdom, ſhe uſeth ſuch profuſeneſs, as cannot but be the effects of a generous minde.

Such perſons as have had experience of her all her life-time, report that ſhe ſhewed this liberal nature in a remarkable manner, even from her Cradle: and I believe with ſome reaſon, that it will continue with her to her Tomb.

The Badge and Motto of that Order of Knighthood that ſhe inſtituted, ſets forth unto us a great bravery of her Spirit, which makes her even pretend to qualities that ſhe poſſeſſes not at all. She gave it the name of the Order of the *Amaranth*, or *Flower-Gentle*, with this Device or Motto, [*Semper idem.*] All men know, that this Flower fades not at all; and accordingly the Device above-ſaid doth perfectly well expreſs its immortal nature: and this is the Badge of her Order of Knighthood. But all men know as well, that know her, that there is nothing ſo changeable as *Chriſtina*; and that this invention doth very little reſemble her humour; the which notwithſtanding ſhe would thereby have had to paſs currant, for the moſt equitable and conſtant that ever was ſeen. She borrowed this Device from the now-deceaſed Cardinal *Richlieu*, in whom every thing was ſplendid and illuſtrious: but the application that ſhe made of it, was her own invention: not intend-

ing

ing thereby to blaze abroad the vertues of the *Amaranth*, but the conſtancie of her own ſpirit, which ſhe would have had to be believed thereby, more immoveable then a Rock : but it was far otherwiſe, as hath been ſaid.

Mans apparel that ſhe now wears, and which ſhe had before uſed ſometime in *Sweden*, where ſhe went cloathed almoſt like a Cavalier, are the tokens of an inclination that ſhe hath, to change her ſex into a more perfect : and although ſhe be in truth a woman, and ſo known to the world ; yet ſhe uſeth the poſtures and faſhions of men, and will be fingering her Muſtaches, as though ſhe had ſome, when indeed ſhe hath none : thus deſiring to expreſs her ſtrong ambition to be what ſhe is not, and to be believed to be indeed ſo.

And though all theſe conceits be but ridiculous, yet they repreſent to us ſome traces of a gallant ſoul, and a brave ſpirit, that would rather have been the inhabitant of a mans body, than of a womans, becauſe that ſex is much raiſed above the other, and more proper for brave undertakings : that other having been, as it ſeems, deſign'd by Nature to more lowe employments, and ſuch as are meaneſt in humane ſociety. But Great *Chriſtina* raiſing her ſelf above her female condition, puts her ſelf into ſuch poſtures and garbs, as may imitate and reſemble ſuch actions as are proper to men.

She can ride admirably, and ſpur an horſe with ſuch dexterity, as if ſhe had been therein exerciſed ſome whole years in an Academy. She travels with a mans Periwig ; her Hat garniſhed with a great Plume of Feathers, a Red Scarf, after the *Spaniſh*

11352-8

Fashion; and they write from *Bruxells*, that she hath ordered Arms to be made her, wherewith she will head the *Catholike Army*, and go and confront the *Mareschal de Turenne*.

Must we not confess, that amidst all these Follies, there is a great deal of Bravery? Since this *Genius* of hers, ceases not in them all, to form designes to it self, that are above and beyond it.

If this Pourtraict that I have made, seems to any to be too severe, let them pardon my disposition, which is always to speak the truth, where I think it is to the purpose. But to prevent all censures that more quick-sighted persons than my self may give upon this Piece, I here submit to them with all my heart: and when they shall give reasons strong enough, to inspire me with other thoughts than those which I have concerning the Genius of *Christina*; I shall embrace them very willingly. It is not (as I have already confessed) that I have not a greater esteem of her, than one can well imagine: but forasmuch as I have spoken both evil and good of her, I think I have spoken nothing but truth, thorowout: and the place wherein I write it, is such, that it permits me to speak the truth.

FINIS.

C585
E96t

C585
AL35e